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COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII.—NO. 19. WEEKLY EDITION. MARCH 20, 1875.

The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, opposite Postoffice.
RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.
TERMS OF THE DAILY: Delivered by carriers, 15 cents a week; 3 cents each. Mailed, one month, 50 cents; one year, $6 00, postage paid by the publishers.
Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.
Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary, and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.
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THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER XII.

"We are there, Miss Letty," says Minette, gathering up satchel, umbrella and such small feminine belongings as we have deemed necessary to take with us on our eventful journey, with a calmness and composure of manner that I certainly fail to imitate. The city of my father's home, the city which holds my happy or forlorn fate, has come to view at last, looming through a sullen gloom of smoke, the issue of the thousand busy fires that feed the vigorous, throbbing pulses of her great steam heart. Behind me lies New York, and a buoyant, giddy past, sown over thick with joyous, thoughtless hours, the Elysian fields of pleasure, wherein I have strayed, picking bright, perishable flowers, as ignorant of the coming sorrow and danger in store for me, as the nymph Proserpine, dear to the sound of the approaching chariot wheels of the grim god Pluto, till she is made a helpless captive of love, for me rises Pittsburgh, the future of fruitful work and patient waiting. We have traveled all night in order to come into a city strange to both of us, encouraged by the confidence and broad days, and the exciting idea of this flight (for what else could I call my abrupt departure, void of adieu to Mrs. Drummond or any other friend who might have stopped it) had kept me nervously alert and wakeful all those long dark watches of the night in which Minette slumbered with the *sang froid* of an old soldier. An position faced but loyal hearted Minette, how the gradual development of your fidelity in my service shamed me, remembering how haughty and repulsive my manner had been when you were my poor Aunt Flavia's devoted adherent and the vigilant keeper of a sad and shameful family secret. The only piece of truth in all the smooth, deceptive speeches with which Matilda Drummond sought to "mould" me for her own, as well as my worldly advancement, lay in her eulogium on this woman, and her dog-like fidelity to us all. The vital instinct of Minette's existence was the instinct of the shepherd's dog, to watch and ward all her life one flock. I hardly recognize her vigilant attentions, yet I feel them from the moment in which I accepted her proffered service. I feel them unconsciously in every comfort of our journey. She does not shed tears for sympathy or sing airy *chansons* to beguile my melancholy as giddy Lucy Tyrrel would little Julie would have done, but the stolidity of her expression, I soon discovered, covered a keen and tender intelligence for my most trifling interests. My impetuous desire is solely and entirely to meet my father as soon as he arrives in his native city, but Minette calculates better the chances of success to a temperate spirit and recruited physical powers.

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"I ought to push and elbow my way through life now, Minette, without needing poor hotels or dirty streets. You forget that the old life is done, and silk attire and sensitive senses put off together," I said, half in mockery, half in sorrow. Minette evidently disagreed with such philosophical views, and put me into a nack as though her mistress owned millions, instead of fifty dollars and thirty three cents, the exact amount left in her small treasury. True to her word, as soon as she had breakfasted, Minette left me to rest, while the hotel parlor, imploring me for some particular reason not to leave it until her return, which she promised should be within the hour. But I certainly should have done so, my feverish impatience rising with the delay of every moment, but for a great surprise that entirely changed my thoughts for a while. I was sitting listlessly in the window, regarding with some curiosity, but small admiration, the crowded, dingy streets, the motley phases of human life and beings that may be seen in the locality of this best hotel in the city any day, when a figure familiar among many quite unknown, passed, a pair of bright eyes looked up, suddenly startled into recognition.

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To my relief at this moment I descried Minette's tall, angular figure, hurrying down the street on her return to me.

"Here comes one almost as faithful as yourself," I said, gently raising the head he had bowed upon his hands in equal perplexity and trouble, and softly wiping the tears from his cheek with my own handkerchief. "Take courage, dear Syd, I am not utterly hopeless and forsaken. Call to-morrow, and I will surely tell you better news."

Scarcely had he departed, somewhat comforted by the strong confident tone I assumed, than Minette entered. Under circumstances of the strongest excitement, her dull gray eyes were wont to brighten and flash with a certain consciousness of power rarely permitted to appear. Something for good or ill had happened recently, I knew, the moment I met her single glance.

"Minette you have seen my father and he says—" I began, breathlessly.

"Nothing, till he sees you to-morrow," she answered, telling all in the fewest possible words, as I expected. She did not seem disposed to tell me more for the present, but after a moment's scrutiny of my flushed, excited face, interrupted my vehement demands with the following information: She had gone direct to the mill, been fortunate enough to see her old master before he could deny himself, and by a dogged persistence equal to his own, forced him to accept and promise to read Aunt Flavia's confession. Here Minette paused to beg my pardon with the utmost humility for taking the liberty to judge for herself and obtain possession of the pocket book, which I had left with the rest of my small possessions, in the satchel.

"I knew there was no time to be lost, and if hard words had to be spoken, they could not scare or stop mine, Miss Letty." So said Minette, in her own excuse, with a grim smile, adding: "I know my master of old, and he knows me. Before he rises Pittsburgh the future of fruitful work and patient waiting. We have traveled all night in order to come into a city strange to both of us, encouraged by the confidence and broad days, and the exciting idea of this flight (for what else could I call my abrupt departure, void of adieu to Mrs. Drummond or any other friend who might have stopped it) had kept me nervously alert and wakeful all those long dark watches of the night in which Minette slumbered with the *sang froid* of an old soldier. An position faced but loyal hearted Minette, how the gradual development of your fidelity in my service shamed me, remembering how haughty and repulsive my manner had been when you were my poor Aunt Flavia's devoted adherent and the vigilant keeper of a sad and shameful family secret. The only piece of truth in all the smooth, deceptive speeches with which Matilda Drummond sought to "mould" me for her own, as well as my worldly advancement, lay in her eulogium on this woman, and her dog-like fidelity to us all. The vital instinct of Minette's existence was the instinct of the shepherd's dog, to watch and ward all her life one flock. I hardly recognize her vigilant attentions, yet I feel them from the moment in which I accepted her proffered service. I feel them unconsciously in every comfort of our journey. She does not shed tears for sympathy or sing airy *chansons* to beguile my melancholy as giddy Lucy Tyrrel would little Julie would have done, but the stolidity of her expression, I soon discovered, covered a keen and tender intelligence for my most trifling interests. My impetuous desire is solely and entirely to meet my father as soon as he arrives in his native city, but Minette calculates better the chances of success to a temperate spirit and recruited physical powers.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1875.

THE principal difference between the Shreveport *Times* and the Pittsburgh *Post* is, that there is a quicker heat in the former, and more candor. A like egg is in the brain of each, nevertheless.

THE amount due depositors in the one hundred and fifty-eight savings banks of New York State is $304,000,000, the increase last year being $18,400,000. This aggregate of deposits is greater than that of all the national and State banks put together. The reason is, that the savings banks pay interest and are deemed to be more secure.

THE foreign commerce of New York increased $1,500,000 last month, compared with the corresponding month last year, which is attributed to a hurrying forward of goods to anticipate the advance in the tariff. The exports for the last eight months of the current fiscal year amount to $223,675,323, including specie, against $231,420,520 for the corresponding months one year ago.

AND now Missouri steps forward with her particular illustration of Democratic probity and honesty, in the shape of a discovery that over two million dollars' worth of Southwest Railroad bonds are missing from the Treasury. It is agreed that either a vast robbery has been perpetrated, or that the books of the State have been kept in a condition which is both disgraceful and dangerous. But it looks mightily as though the former inference were the correct one.

NOTWITHSTANDING the distrust of our securities in Europe during the last year, we appear to be still borrowing there by the sale of corporate securities at the rate of about $60,000,000 per annum. £2,257,500 is to be paid in subscriptions to half a dozen American loans in England, during the present month. The aggregate amount called up for payment during the first quarter of the year is £4,753,750, or stated in dollars, $23,100,000. The British House of Commons has lately appointed a special committee, which proposes to protect British capitalists from being gulled by "swindling foreign loans," which apparently presupposes that a large proportion of English moneyed men have not sufficient information or intelligence to protect themselves.

THE press in other States highly commends the bill recently passed by our Republican Senate, declaring all combinations unlawful which prevent and discourage the apprenticing of minors to a trade. By the provisions of the measure, any person who, in his individual capacity, or as a member of any association, attempts to prevent an employer from taking as an apprentice any minor whose parents or guardians are desirous that he shall learn a trade, is subject to fine and imprisonment. This is an efficient blow at the organizations which have heretofore closed the avenues to labor to youth, and compelled many of them to vice and crime. If ours is a free Republic, no branch of labor should be allowed to become exclusive. A fair, free chance to all should be the rule. It is no answer to reply that the policy of apprenticeship limitation is to prevent trades from being overrun by too many hands for the work that is to be done. This reasoning is as fallacious as the rule is despotic and unjust. So far from being likely to have too many master mechanics, we have never yet had enough of them. If the grocers and dry-goods dealers, the farmers, lawyers, doctors and preachers, were each classto form a union, and to ordain that only so many persons should be allowed to engage in their particular line of business or profession, upon the assumption that a larger number would render their occupation unprofitable, everybody would denounce such a proceeding as a despotic monopoly which ought not for a moment to be tolerated, and yet the rule would be no more proscriptive in its application to the professions, or to commercial pursuits, than to mechanical industry. The liberty of choosing his own calling is guaranteed to every man as one of the cardinal rights of citizenship, and every attempt to prohibit the youthful of our country from acquiring a useful trade, is a crime which ought to be punishable at law. The measure in question is clearly in the interest of public welfare and public justice, and whether it passes the House or not, other States would do well to follow the example which the Pennsylvania Senate has set with regard to this important matter.

GENERAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

All the leading journals of the various branches of trade notice and comment on the palpable signs of commercial revival. Even that eminently conservative journal, the *Nation*, is confident that the depressing effects of the panic are at last substantially over, and that with the growth of the spring, there is to be a general revival in business. The Chicago *Tribune* has been interviewing the different business firms in that city, and reports a very flattering prospect in all branches of trade, and it says its report can be relied upon as authoritative, it being obtained in person. The Troy *Times* gives an account of the status of the various manufacturing and commercial interests there, which shows a decidedly improved prospect for the opening season in both branches of industry. The Boston *Globe* says the indications on all sides are that the general trade of that city is much better than it was a year ago this time, and that no doubt with the disappearance of the snow and the advent of mild, settled weather, merchants will experience a fair spring trade. The general merchandise markets, from week to week, show a decided tendency for the better. It is predicted that the first of April, which is so largely a settlement day throughout New England, will usher in a period of great activity in that section. In several of the towns of Massachusetts in order are reported as running on extra time. In the West the farmers are in a much better condition than was generally supposed, while the reports of many of the railroads of that section show increased earnings. In New York the spring trade is reported to be progressing favorably now in all directions, only requiring a few days' steady weather to set all the wheels in motion. The various forwarding lines coastwise have as much freight as they can conveniently handle. With the Eastern States the free movement of merchandise is particularly noticeable. Large quantities of manufactured goods are also arriving, both by steamer and rail. The Savannah, Charleston and New Orleans steamers also report increasing business, and the produce markets also foreshadow the return of more active times.

Then, too, the late advance in wheat in England and on the Continent has started an upward movement in prices here, which will cause an active movement in grain from the farmers' hands to the lake ports and the seaboard as soon as roads in the country permit of stuff being hauled to the railroads. The farmers still hold a large portion of last year's wheat crop, refusing to sell freely at the low prices of last fall and winter. The indications are favorable for a good export demand for wheat in the future, which, coupled with the recent advance in price, certainly strengthens the theory that our surplus crops will be marketed during the spring and summer, which cannot be done without giving a sharp impetus to general business and active employment to the railroads. The recent call of the Secretary of the Treasury for $30,000,000 5-20 bonds on account of the sinking fund, has also had a good effect in financial and business circles, and assisted the revival of confidence which had previously set in. The neglect of the national sinking fund and the default of interest by our railroads in 1873 and 1874 greatly damaged our credit in Europe, but the action of the Secretary in holding the sinking fund sacred will do much to restore this credit abroad to its former high standard, and so increase the confidence of European capitalists in our securities as, it is to be hoped, to revive their export once more. To be sure, hope is not a marketable commodity, but it is an exceedingly important auxiliary agency of prosperity, nevertheless. There is enough of everything now, except confidence. Everybody should lend a hand to encourage the growth of this tender plant.

SOME time ago, when money was less plenty than at present, a Boston merchant subscribed five hundred dollars to a theological enterprise, and paid two hundred dollars of the amount at the time. Recently, finding it convenient, he forwarded the remaining three hundred. By return mail he received a letter of acknowledgment, and a request for nineteen dollars and some odd cents interest on the three hundred dollars from the date of the original subscription!

A rhinoceros lately received at the Zoological Garden in Philadelphia weighs nearly three tons.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Pinchback goes back without a Senatorial handle to his name.

All the rivers in the country are organizing runs upon their banks.

Moody and Sankey are drawing vaster crowds than ever in London.

Careful people should can some of this cool spring weather for summer use.

Pleasant is the wine of spring, but there is a good deal of bitterness in these dregs.

And now a Delaware cow has been and gone and brought forth four fine healthy calves.

St. Louis is rejoicing at the prospect of a cotton mill, with ample capital to make it profitable.

Governor Tilden has struck Bergh dumb by pardoning a man who was imprisoned for killing a cat.

No horses will be excluded from the tracks during the spring races on account of color or previous condition.

Old John Robinson, the circus man, is looming up as an independent candidate for the Mayoralty in Cincinnati.

A Minnesota paper tells a sounding story of a sixteen year old boy who has "made a violin out of his own head."

The Joliet Iron and Steel Company will blow in their blast furnaces in a few days. Their steel converters are in full operation.

A Chattanooga, Tennessee, telegraph operator accidentally got an electric shock that took every hair from his head, the other day.

The Congressional Library is in a fair way to become one of the largest in the world. It now contains 274,157 volumes and 53,000 pamphlets.

The loan of $50,000 offered by Nebraska for the benefit of the grasshopper sufferers, has all been taken in New York at a premium of 4 1-5 per cent.

Too much Gentile for them. The Mormon majority in the Utah Legislature will urge the removal of the capital to St. George at the next session.

For the past two or three months rich and valuable discoveries have been made of lead in Kansas, and silver and lead in the northern counties of Arkansas.

A Nevada paper says that owing to the incursions of the chinch bug last year the two great staples of the State at present are red-haired girls and cord wood.

From thirty to fifty per cent. of all the cattle in Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Eastern Washington, and Oregon will be lost from the severity of the winter.

There will be weeping among the parting and departing Solons of the Legislature to-day, and when the people next get a chance at the Democrats there will be a whalin'.

A wealthy Englishman has bought a large tract of land in Atchison county, Kansas, and, with a dairy of sixteen hundred cows, proposes to "cheese it" on an extensive scale.

Troy boasts that it makes more stoves, paper and linen collars, malleable iron, Bessemer steel rails, and horse shoes than any other city of the same dimensions in the country.

It has been very cold in Jerusalem, this winter. The Arabs, having never seen ice before, were completely puzzled and could not understand "why water should be changed into glass?"

The parade, the sprigs of shamrock, the crash of music, the flaunting of green banners, the nodding of plumes, and all the general accompaniments of St. Patrick's day are over, thank fortune.

Two weeks ago the capital of Beecher's paper, the *Christian Union*, was increased to $250,000, and two creditors of the concern, having notes, were compelled, quite reluctantly, to accept payment in shares.

The acme of splurge. A New York paper says that during Beecher's prayer at the Plymouth church services last Sunday, "all about him from the bowed heads there was the *faint low murmur of falling tears*."

Cincinnati is, with one exception, the most densely populated city in the United States. New York averages 14.72 persons to each dwelling house, Cincinnati 8.81, Boston 8.46, Jersey City 8.37, and Chicago 6.70.

For the past two years sixty or seventy American locomotives a year have been sent abroad at an annual valuation of nearly a million dollars. This exportation represents the degree to which American skill in iron-working is able to prevail over the skill of foreigners.

In one direction, at least, negro equality is recognized. A colored man visited the State National bank, in Raleigh, the other day, and insisted upon his right, under the Civil Rights law, to deposit $300 in that institution, "jus de same as white folks." The cashier took it.

PERSONAL.

Another bogus "materializing" medium has been exposed—a Mrs. Parrey, who has been puzzling Chicagoans for some months past by her wonderful materializations. The spirits that were called up by her from the vasty deep proved to be nothing more harmful than a few rubber masks, hands and arms, which were easily concealed from curious investigators.

An honest old farmer from Clinton county, who had come down to the city to pass Sunday with his metropolitan friends, being asked by one of them this morning what the people up in Northern New York think of the Tilden scandal, replied that he never tried it, and didn't know anything about it—that he and all his neighbors burn kerosene.

Among the visitors of the Chicago Art Gallery the other day, was a smart little fellow of seven, who took great interest in the paintings, particularly Mount Shasta. He was so keen in his criticism of the mysterious mists that form one of the most attractive features of the picture as to attract general attention, and then it came out that the young gentleman is himself a painter; and, after a little coaxing, some of his productions were brought forth. They were chiefly studies of birds, from nature, and sufficiently remarkable to merit a place in the portfolio of an amateur of more than ordinary skill. Upon the whole, his little artist sketches and colors from nature, and he certainly appears to have developed extraordinary powers for one so young.

Tennessee is singing the praises of David Holloway, a locomotive engineer, who met his death at his post of duty. The recent floods had borne away bridges on the Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia road, and with a passenger train Holloway had been cautiously feeling his way along the line. A working party had constructed a bridge over Sweetwater creek, and, under instructions, Holloway detached his engine to make a trial of the strength of the new structure. As he reached the approach he bade his fireman jump, the latter saying that the work was perilous, and the sacrifice of one life would be enough. The fireman stepped from the footboard, the engine moved upon the bridge. It was flight. Presently there was heard a crash of timbers. The frail bridge had given away, and David Holloway was a dead man.

A young Bostonian met with a comical mishap recently. His watch breaking down just before he set out for the opera, of which he is a frequenter, he stepped into a jeweler's shop where he is well acquainted for the purpose of having his time piece repaired, and obtained a substitute for it in the shape of a handsome Swiss watch, loaned him by the courtesy of the proprietor of the establishment. Thus equipped, the young gentleman took his seat at the opera, and everything went well until the middle of the second act, when suddenly he heard strains of sweet music not in the score, wafted sweet and low in his neighborhood. People right of him, people to left of him, people on all sides him queried and wondered. Finally, horrible to relate, the unfortunate man found that the music issued from his vest pocket, and as he frantically pulled out the watch, the strains of the Swiss waltz thrilled his soul. He stood not upon the order of his departure, but went at once.

The first blood of the Revolution was shed precisely one hundred years ago last Saturday. History commonly accounts the skirmish at Lexington, April 19, 1775, as the first occasion of conflict, but a prior claim is filed by Westminster, now of Windham county, Vermont, but a hundred years ago a part of New York. To the King's court house the law officers proceeded, under the escort of a body of British troops, to hold the customary session, but the exasperated patriots refused to allow them to occupy the court house, where they assembled in force. Shortly before midnight the English troops advanced, and, the rebels not dispersing, fired upon them indiscriminately, William French being instantly killed. A stone was erected over his grave in the churchyard, bearing the following quaint inscription: "In memory of William French, who was shot at Westminster, March ye 13th, 1775, by the hand of the cruel ministerial tools of George ye Third, at the Court House, at 11 o'clock at night, in the twenty-second year of his age.

"Here William French his body lies,
For Murder His blood for Vengeance cries:
Had you been the Third by Forty cross
That with a bawl his head shot threw.
For Liberty and his Country's good
He lost his life, his Dearest blood."

What are we coming to? The New York *Tribune*, repeats the main points of the New Hampshire Republican platform and says: "Such a flag deserved victory, and we are heartily glad of whatever it has achieved."

POLITICAL.

State.

Governor Hartranft has appointed William Nesbit, a colored man, a notary public for Altoona.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* says Bucks county would vote unanimously for the removal of the State Capital from Harrisburg to Philadelphia.

A young lady now teaching school in Wellsboro, Tioga county, is a candidate for County Superintendent, and she is said to be well qualified for the office.

General Gallagher, of Westmoreland county, is spoken of very favorably by the *Tribune and Herald*, of Greensburg, as a candidate for State Treasurer on the Republican ticket.

The Reading *Times* says Governor Hartranft has proved himself so entirely acceptable to the people of the State that there seems to be only one opinion respecting his candidacy next fall for the Governorship.

Miss Nettie Ingram, of Duncansville, Blair county, proposes to be a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Schools at the ensuing election. Under the new Constitution she is eligible to that position.

The New York *Express* brings the information that "General Hancock's friends in Pennsylvania have their eye upon him as candidate for President."

Two Rad. Congressmen sitting in the sun.
'Long comes 'lection day—now there is one.
—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

To which we respond:
Dem. state officials filling up with pelf,
'Long come 'lection day—laid them on the shelf.
—*Williamsport Bulletin.*

The Republican members of the State Senate have declined thus far to make the Local Option law a party measure, and it is to be hoped they will maintain that position to the end. It would simply complicate matters, and drag into politics a question that has already created too much disturbance. It is better that each member should be left to exercise his own judgment, without attempted dictation, as was done in the House, and it would defy the most astute politician to twist any party capital out of the result.—*Williamsport Gazette.*

The Reading *Eagle* says it is probable that General W. H. Davis, of Doylestown, will be the Democratic candidate for Governor, and as Hartranft will doubtless be the Republican candidate we will have the same men to vote for that we did nine years ago, when these two gentlemen were the opposing candidates for Auditor General. The *Eagle* might have added that the result of the election will doubtless be the same as it was then. We don't, however, believe that General Davis will be the candidate of the opposition.—*Scranton Republican.*

Governor Hartranft's renomination as Governor of Pennsylvania is enthusiastically urged by the Scranton *Republican*, which so vehemently opposed his election in 1872, a remarkable change under all circumstances, but sufficiently accounted for by the reasons assigned, which are that "he has been tried and found unobjectionable in every particular," that "his administration has been marked with almost every quality that commands the respect, confidence and honor of the people," that "Pennsylvania has never had an Executive whose administration was marked by fewer errors, and none that presents more that is commendable and deserving of high praise," with much more to the same effect; in all of which we most heartily concur. We were sure that General of the county of Warmbrod worthy of trust at the time when the Scranton *Republican* was assailing him so unjustly, and we rejoice sincerely that the *Republican* has seen its error. Governor Hartranft has justified all that we ever said of him, and has proved himself one of the very best and most efficient Executives the State has ever had. We congratulate him at the unanimity in favor of his renomination.—*Philadelphia North American.*

Anything more disgraceful than the exhibition made by the State House of Representatives on Friday night it would be impossible to conceive of. It has been characterized as a burlesque on legislation, but that term is entirely too mild to convey an adequate idea of the real nature of the proceedings. The scene presented was that of a lot of howling maniacs setting at defiance every rule of procedure, the fundamental law of God and common decency. Never was there the slightest semblance of order, and there was scarcely a moment when the proceedings did not amount to "disorderly" within the meaning of the common law. Control of the House the Speaker never had, although the temporary substitute of Mr. Patterson commanded more respect than did that incompetent when he resided over the same chair. Measures of all kinds were hurried through with lightning speed during the wild orgy, many of them not even being read by their titles, although the Constitution most distinctly provides that every measure, on the motion for its passage, shall be read at length. For some hours before the adjournment there was most patently no quorum, yet did the outrageous proceedings continue, in spite of the protestation of the only member, Mr. Reyburn, who seems to have had the moral courage to stand up against the surging mass of rampant brutes, who for the time being replaced an orderly legislative body.—*Phila. Telegraph.*

General.

The New York *Times* says that the Republican party is gaining ground in that State. It is proved, it says, not only by various local elections for minor officials, "but it can also be felt in the air."

Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, who has been writing out his views on the finances, regrets emancipation, because it deprived the land owners of the South, at the close of the war, of the privilege of raising money on their chattel property.

Ex-Congressman Nathan F. Dixon is a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Rhode Island, and his chances have been improved by the whisky war, since that has injured the prospects of his chief competitor, Colonel Henry Lippitt.

In the old time it was usual to decimate a conquered army that had fought against its own flag by shooting every tenth man. To-day we decimate a conquering Confederate hosts by sending every tenth general officer to the Senate of the country he fought to destroy.—*Philadelphia Press.*

The Hon. B.H Hill is said to be the most prominent candidate for the seat of the late Congressman-elect McMillan, of the Ninth Georgia district. He will be necessary to erect a strong partition between Mr. Hill and the Hon. A. H. Stephens if they shall both be members of the House.

OHIO NEWS.

The police department of the Dayton treasury is bankrupt.

Miss Fannie Smith, a native of Columbus, O., is making her mark in opera in London.

The Cincinnati, Sandusky and Cleveland Railroad track is to be relaid with steel rails.

Muskingum county produced last year 701,633 pounds of butter and 512,703 pounds of wool.

The cupola of the Universalist church at McConnellsville, was demolished by lightning yesterday morning.

They are to have a Northwestern Medical Institution in or near Alliance. It is incorporated with $60,000.

The new town of Stewart, on the Marietta and Cincinnati railroad, is the expected terminus of the Federal Creek Valley Railroad.

Over seventy persons have joined the Presbyterian church at Fredericksburgh, Knox county, as the result of a recent revival.

Josephine Rannels, colored, was arrested yesterday for the murder at Nelsonville last week of an infant, which was found in the canal.

Lawless James Lawless has been jugged in the State jug for lawlessly killing a lawless man named Sailor Jack at Marsin's Ferry in Southern Ohio.

The next meeting of the Northwestern Ohio Firemen's Association will be held at Nevada, Wyandot county, on Tuesday, April 24.

Little Nellie Morgan, the victim of the brute who was hanged by the vigilants at Urbana six weeks ago, has so far recovered from her injuries as to be able to attend school.

Bishop Bedell, of Ohio, in a late letter reaffirms the position of the Episcopal Church on the subject of theater-going and dancing. He characterizes them as demoralizing vices.

A veteran of the campaign of Napoleon in Russia, named Pierro Pachoud, aged ninety-six, is a resident of Xenia. He was a participant in all the horrors of the famous retreat from Moscow.

The First Presbyterian church in Chillicothe, reports a revival, in which the families of the congregation are sharing largely, and, as a result, more than thirty have been added to the membership.

A meeting of old soldiers took place Thursday night in Cleveland, the object being the formation of a soldiers' mutual benevolent association, and to give expression of opinion in reference to the failure of the bounty bill in Congress. Nothing definite was accomplished.

A meeting was held at Columbus Thursday night, for the purpose of considering the matter of having an exhibition of dogs a feature at the coming State fair. A meeting will also be held soon to organize a State Dog Association. A "dog-goned" lively time is expected.

One Mary Jane Sumney left Millersburg Holmes county, October 1, 1874. She was about five feet in height; weight about 125 pounds; square shoulders; black wavy hair and quite a chin beard. Her age twenty-eight. Any information of the above will be thankfully received by an aged mother and friends, by sending word to James Rinard, Millersburg, O.

STATE NEWS.

Philadelphia is threatened with a spell of the spelling mania.

Mr. George Gable died suddenly, in Lancaster, on Monday.

The Centennial hotel project in Philadelphia has been abandoned.

The new Masonic Hall will be the handsomest building in Reading.

Ex-Sheriff Gernaut, of Berks county, died on Sunday, aged ninety-two.

Tyrone has a very bad boy, named Barnacle. Appropriate cognomen.

A little child was smothered to death in Athens on Friday of last week.

William Peden, Sr., died in Johnstown on the 13th inst., aged eighty-five years.

The water famine in the eastern counties is said to set particularly hard upon the milkmen.

Norristown ladies propose to start a "total abstinence lunch room" in the interest of temperance.

Woodruff Hatfield, a German, hung himself in a barn near Norristown on the 12th inst.

Michael Donlin, a switchtender at Erie, was run over and killed on Monday. He was sixty-three years old.

George Spinner, a veteran of the war of 1812, died in Allentown on the 13th inst., aged eighty-three years.

Hon. Charles Albright was serenaded by his friends on his return to Mauch Chunk from Washington, last week.

The deaths in Philadelphia, last week, numbered 387. Of these 100 were from diseases of the throat and lungs.

A number of striking coal miners are under bail for trial in Luzerne county, for intimidating men from working in the mines.

A monster "Spelling Bee," it is announced, will shortly take place at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia. The prizes will be handsome and appropriate.

At the late township election in Pike, Potter county, Samuel Losey, aged 102 years, cast his vote with the boys. Mr. Losey is blind but hale, still.

Mr. Charles W. Mixell, a prominent citizen of Easton, died on the 14th inst., in his seventy-sixth year. He had spent his life in Easton, where he was born.

The Lykens *Register* says: Mrs. Dillcamp, an aged lady of Wiconisco, died on Friday last, of suffocation. She was standing up hearty and hale, and expired while in this position.

The Northumberland *Press* publishes a letter written by Mrs. Rebecca J. Patterson, formerly of that place, aged eighty-five years, and addressed to Mrs. Nancy Gaskins of that place, aged eighty-two years. It took four months less one day to write the letter.

Muncy has a boy prodigy in the person of Willie Edmunds, aged ten years. The *Luminary* says that the specimens of ornamental penmanship, cards bearing inscriptions and drawings of animals, birds, &c., executed by this little boy are unsurpassed for beauty ever seen. He also excels in other branches.

An old lady named Sophronia Snook, aged seventy years, was run over by a coal train on the Pennsylvania Coal Company's road in Luzerne county, March 11. She was caught by the train in a narrow rock cut so filled with snow at the sides it was impossible for her to get out of the way and torn and mangled in the most horrible manner.

Of all the papers on our exchange list, the Williamsport *Gazette and Bulletin* is one of the very best. It takes Republicanism straight, and does good work for the party. Its editorials are crisp and sparkling, its local news fresh and well written, and its general news condensations up to the mark. It speaks well for the people of Williamsport that the *Gazette and Bulletin* receives such liberal support.

The Crescent correspondent of the Muncy *Luminary* says that the other day, while Thomas Corter was driving along a very high embankment, one mile above Trout run, with a load of hay, the wind blew a perfect gale, lifting the hay from about the sides of the rack and the team standing in the road, and carried the hay with Mr. Corter down over the bank, nearly one hundred feet high, and landed him and the load safe and sound.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger* announcements of the deaths of seventeen persons—seven men and ten women—who had lived to or beyond the advanced age of eighty years, to wit: James S. Rich, aged 86; Anna M. Thomas, 81; William Fry, 84; Elizabeth Burkhardt, 95; Annie Norveil, 83; Richard Fimple, 83; Daniel Paul, 83; Charles White, 84; Sarah Clayton, 86; George Haverstock, 87; Mary S. Young, 87; Catharine Wallace, 80; Phebe Doudy, 89; Mary Irvine, 90; Abel Vinton, 91; Mary T. Bartlit, 93, and Lucinda Colgan, 98.

While the decrease in shipments of Broad Top coal from January 1 to March 1 from shipments for the same time last year was 23,904 tons, the increase in the Clearfield region was over 4,000 tons for the same time. Work on the road to Campbell Bro.'s new coal opening has been going on steadily, and will be ready for the iron as soon as the spring fairly opens and the frost leaves the embankments. Pottsville parties have leased the coal mines of James P. Hale, of Osceola, on the Mapleton Branch, and are to pay nineteen cents per ton royalty, it is reported. This is the largest royalty paid in the Clearfield region, but it is also the only case where the mines were opened, track laid, schute erected, and everything in running order at the time of leasing.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Ashland (Kentucky) furnace having completed her machinery repairs, blew in on the 15th inst.

The various qualities of iron, made for car wheels, in this country, will shortly be tested in Altoona.

Mr. Elias Bickell, of Milton, has purchased the interest of Mr. Robert Corry, in the new foundry and machine shops in Upper Milton, Pa.

Business is hopeful at Hopedale, R. I. Large orders have been received at the machine shops recently, and "old hands" are returning to work.

Parts coke and anthracite coal are used at the Lochiel and McCormick furnaces, in Harrisburg. In the steel-works furnace one-fourth coke is used.

The Salem (Mass.) Lead Company manufacture white lead, lead pipe, lead ribbon, and lead tape. They employ forty hands, and the capacity of their works is 3,000 tons per annum.

The operators in the disaffected districts of the Lehigh region are paying men at the rate of $5 per day to take the place of the engineers, firemen and watchmen. A number of Hazelton boys are on duty.

The *Index* says that the location has been selected and the land surveyed for the new tannery at Westfield, Pennsylvania. The company proposes to erect fifteen or sixteen houses for their workmen this spring.

The Phœnixville *Messenger* says: "We have a puddler in this town who has never joined a union nor engaged in a strike, who is probably to-day worth $10,000. He has a brother equally as good a workman, who has always dabbled in trades' unions and strikes, and he is not worth $100.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Full Returns of State Election.

CONCORD, March 16.—The full vote of the State is now in, and foots up as follows:

Governor—Cheney, 39,285; Roberts, 39,165; White, 754; total vote, 79,202; Cheney over Roberts, 122.

Congressmen—First district, Whitehouse, Republican, 13,619; Jones, Democrat, 14,004; scattering, 326; Jones' plurality, 385.

Second district—Pike, Republican, 12,-905; Bell, Democrat, 13,083; scattering, 202; Bell's plurality, 147.

Third district—Blair, Republican, 12,-388; Kent, Democrat, 12,131; scattering, 163; Blair's plurality, 207.

LANCASTER.

Seduction, Abortion and Death.

LANCASTER, PA., March 17.—Thomas H. Goodwin, a practicing physician of Windsor township, York county, has been arrested and committed to prison here for the seduction of Miss Mary Riehlberger, of this city, and an attempt to commit an abortion upon her, from the effects of which she died to-day. She was found a week ago, by relatives, concealed in a hut in Maryland. The victim, who was of a good family of this city, and was twenty-three years old. The details of the affair are horrible.

Attempted Murder in Court by a St. Louis Boy.

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—On the twenty-third of September last, while several boys were playing on the street near the corner of Christy avenue and Seventeenth street, a little son of Robert Boatright was killed by a brick supposed to have been thrown by a boy named Charles Woodson. This afternoon, while Woodson was being tried in the Criminal Court, and while counsel were arguing a legal point, another son of Mr. Boatright, about sixteen years old, stepped up to Woodson and said: "You killed my brother; I will kill you," and plunged a butcher knife into his abdomen, up to the handle. Woodson fell to the floor, his bowels protruding in a horrible manner. His wound is mortal. Young Boatright was immediately seized by the Deputy Marshal and placed in jail.

Later.—Woodson, the boy stabbed in the Criminal Court room this afternoon, is not so badly wounded as first supposed. His wound proves to be a slash wound instead of a stiletto stab, and not necessarily fatal. Woodson is a colored boy, son of Elder Woodson, a noted colored preacher of this city.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 16, 1875.

After numerous efforts to amend, all failing, the act to repeal an act to permit the voters of this Commonwealth to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors, passed finally—32 to 16.

The House non-concurred in the Senate amendments, and the Senate insisted upon them. President Latta appointed Messrs. Cooper, Heilman and Clark as the Conference Committee.

Mr. Rutan insisted that Messrs. Heilman and Clark were against the bill as it stood, and that the committee should be taken from the majority. He moved that the committee consist of Messrs. Cooper, Jones and Playford.

Mr. Yerkes moved to amend by making it consist of Messrs. Jones, McClellan and Ermentrout. Lost.

Mr. Rutan's motion was adopted—29 to 13.

The following passed finally:

House bill, supplement to an act to provide for the destruction and to prevent the spreading of Canada thistles.

House bill to repeal an act to allow the voters of the borough of Coatesville, county of Chester, to vote on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors.

House bill to provide for appeals in cases where the county commissioners and auditors have failed or shall hereafter fail to fix the compensation of county treasurers, and to repeal an act relating to county treasurers, approved the 18th day of April, in regard to the compensation of county treasurers.

Bill to extend the time for the completion of railroads under the general law.

The following (all House bills), passed second reading:

A supplement to an act to regulate the manner of increasing the indebtedness of municipalities, to provide for the redemption of the same, and to impose penalties for the illegal increase thereof, approved the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874, amending the sixth section thereof.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of the expenses of serving writ of election to fill vacancy in the district composed of the county of Berks.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of the expenses of serving writ of election to fill vacancy in the district composed of the county of Centre.

An act to provide for the settlement of the claim of Emanuel Peters.

An act to provide for the current expenses of the Board of Public Charities.

An act making an appropriation for pensions and gratuities.

Joint resolution providing for the printing of additional copies of the reports of the Board of Commissioners of the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania.

An act to provide for the expenses required by an act, entitled "An act to provide for the continuance of the education and orphans' home of the children of the deceased soldiers and sailors, and destitute children of permanently disabled soldiers and sailors of the State," approved April 9, 1867.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of expenses of serving writ of election to fill vacancy in the district composed of the county of Armstrong.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of expenses of serving writ of election to fill the vacancy in the district composed of the county of Washington.

An act to provide for the publication of the tenth volume of the transactions of the State Agricultural Society.

An act to authorize W. G. Taylor, Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans School at Philipsburg, Beaver county, Pa., for clothing, transportation and funeral expenses of soldiers' orphans.

An act in relation to the payment of the costs and expenses of the division of election districts.

A further supplement to an act to establish a system of free banking in Pennsylvania, and to secure the public against loss from insolvent banks, approved March 31, 1860.

An act authorizing and regulating the making of local appropriations to schools commonly known as homes for friendless children.

NOTARIES CONFIRMED.

The Senate confirmed the following notaries: John McClaren, E. V. McCandless, Thomas Hindman, William McNaughan, F. W. Smith, W. Newmyer, F. H. Gervas, J. S. Young, J. Soffel, West McMurray, H. F. Dunham, J. M. Taylor, G. N. Monroe, J. L. Stephenson and J. H. Siracusen.

The House bill for the removal of county seats, was lost for want of a constitutional majority—23 to 17.

At half-past seven the Senate is still in session, considering amended bills.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock.

Mr. Plummer, from the Conference Committee on the bill for the establishment of new counties, reported that the committee were unable to agree and asked to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. The motion was agreed to, and a new committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Gunster, Hannan and Tracy.

The following passed finally:

An act requiring recorders of deeds to keep in their respective offices general, direct and *adsectum* index of deeds and mortgages recorded therein, prescribing the duties of said recorders, and declaring that the entries in said general index shall be notice to all persons.

A supplement to an act relative to forfeiture of charters or grants of special or exclusive privileges to railroad, turnpike and plankroad corporations, approved May 15, 1874, prescribing the manner in which said corporations shall consent to hold their charters subject to the provisions of the Constitution adopted December 16, 1873.

An act to punish persons for carrying concealed weapons within this Commonwealth.

An act to repeal the first section of an act relative to the appointment of sealers of weights and measures, approved the 20th day of February, 1872, so far as the same relates to the appointment of such officer in and for the county of Dauphin.

Joint resolution providing for a special committee to make an investigation into the affairs of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company.

An act authorizing common carriers, factors, commission merchants and other persons to sell goods, wares, merchandise, baggage and other property unclaimed or perishable upon which they have a lien.

An act to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors, and for the prosecution or order at soldiers' encampments and reunions.

An act to provide for the erection of water troughs for the use of horses and mules on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

An act to amend an act, entitled "An act to authorize married women owning lots of the Commonwealth or of the city of Philadelphia, or capital stock of any corporation of this Commonwealth, to sell and transfer the same," approved the 1st day of April, A. D. 1872, extending the provisions of said act so as to include the loans as well as the capital stock of corporations of this Commonwealth.

Joint resolution to provide for the payment of B. F. Burroughs, engineer, and Daniel Best and Wm. McGuire, firemen, for services rendered from October 1st to December 1st, 1874, under direction of the Chief Clerk.

An act to authorize the Attorney General, Auditor General and State Treasurer to settle all outstanding claims and to work done and material furnished the Constitutional Convention.

Mr. Petroff, from the Committee of Conference on the Local Option bill, submitted a report and a copy of the bill as amended by the committee. The report was read.

Mr. Talley moved that the House adopt the report of the committee.

A discussion arose about typographical mistakes in the bill. The previous question was finally called and sustained.

The debate being thus cut off, Mr. Long, of Allegheny, jumped to his feet and protested vigorously, in the name of his constituents, denouncing the bill as amended by the Senate as one to be made a legal success of "the trustees of the Presbyterian House," and to authorize the latter corporation to transfer the property held by them to the trustees.

Mr. Long spoke for an hour and a half against the bill applied to Allegheny. The committee themselves could not tell. But if it did so apply, he denounced it as a fraud upon the people, as depriving the city of revenues of his county tens of thousands of dollars, and let whisky flow freely. While willing to vote for an honest, fair, easily administered local option law at the next thing under the circumstances attainable, he would oppose with all his power this fraud on the people; and he protested against its passage as an infamous measure. He yesterday voted for the bill, but the Conference Committee, under the manipulations of paid lobbyists, had emasculated it and made it simply detestable. No one here appears to know where the bill applies, or whether the old law of 1856 is repealed or not. No opportunity was given for debate, but the measure was put through with a whirl and amid a storm of protests.

The report of the Conference Committee was then adopted—yeas 122, nays 68.

The vote on the act fixing the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Court, of the several Judicial districts and of separate orphans' courts, was yeas 99, nays 93.

A motion was made to reconsider the above vote, which was laid on the table—yeas 97, nays 98, which defeats the bill.

Mr. Lusk, Democrat, offered a resolution expunging from the record the vote of censure passed at a previous session, at the beginning of the session, against Chas. S. Wolfe, of Union, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Wolfe made a feeling and complimentary speech, returning his thanks, and the best of feeling prevailed.

The House again met at half-past seven P. M.

The bill fixing the salaries of officers of Philadelphia, Allegheny and Luzerne counties has failed for the session.

At twelve o'clock the House is hard at work upon bills, with every prospect of an all night session.

PRESENTATIONS.

Gen. Hartshorne and other Democrats of the House have presented Mr. Christy with a gold-headed cane. A magnificent cane has also been presented to Hon. T. Robb Deyarmon by his friends in the Legislature.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 16, 1875.

Postage on Transient Newspapers.

In order to afford the people in all parts of the country to become familiar with the new postage on transient newspapers, the Postmaster General has determined to suspend the operation of the law in this particular until the first of April, when he will rigidly enforce it. All newspapers thereafter will be detained if insufficiently paid. An order to the postoffices will be issued by the Postmaster General to postmasters. This action of the Postmaster General is absolutely necessary to prevent the flooding of the postoffices with insufficiently paid newspapers. The department is still in receipt of complaints of this embarrassment.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1875.

Commissioner Douglass and Others.

Among the names mentioned to-day for removal, is that of Mr. Douglass, Commissioner of Internal Revenue. It is learned from good authority that he is in danger. There are other bureau officers, however, who are not so sure of their tenure of office. It is understood that no action will be taken in the matter until after the adjournment of the Senate.

George P. Boker, of Pennsylvania.

who was transferred from the court of Constantinople to that of St. Petersburg, as diplomatic representative of the United States, has not yet arrived at his post. There is reason to believe that Mr. Boker will not remain long at his field of duty, and should he reach there and get through the usual formalities of presentation and official recognition. He has for some time been contemplating a return to the United States.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STEAMER BURNED.

Eight

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 17, 1875.

The construction of the stamp act of February 8, 1875, continues to excite discussion, and the New York banks have notified the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that they will conform to his rulings under the law and also resist the effort to enter their vaults in search of unstamped vouchers. The power to make the searchless claimed under section 3,177 of the laws of the United States, revised June, 1874; but, on the other hand, it is claimed that the wording of this section and the context clearly show that the act does not refer to checks or to banks at all, the articles which are the subjects of search being those "made, produced or kept" in the particular building, and was passed in connection with the law regulating the tax on whisky and tobacco. The national banks also claim that the 5th section of this banking act, after providing for the appointment of a bank examiner provides that "the association shall not be subject to any other visitorial powers than such as are authorized by this act, except such as are vested in the several courts of law and chancery." The attorney employed to defend the banks quotes the circular of the Commisioner as follows:

Section 15 of the act of February 8, 1875, provides: That a bank check, draft, order or voucher for the payment of any sum of money whatsoever, drawn upon any bank, banker or trust company, shall be subject to a stamp tax of two cents.

By this enactment, checks, etc., drawn on time, are liable to the stamp tax, as well as those payable at sight or on demand; so also are *receipts* and *other vouchers* taken by banks, bankers or trust companies for the payment of money by them.

He also calls attention to the fact that section 36 of the act, of June 6, 1872, repeals the whole of schedule B, "excepting only the tax of two cents on bank checks, drafts or orders," and then says:

"It will be observed that the word *voucher* is omitted in the above section, as well as in schedule B of the act of June 30, 1864, and is seemingly inserted in the late act of February 8, 1875, as a qualification or explanation to the three preceding words, *bank check, draft or order*, thereby identifying them as the vouchers to be subject to the stamp tax imposed.

This interpretation is regarded as conclusive from the fact that they must be "drawn upon a bank." In conclusion, the attorney of the banks says:

"We learn that the bankers in this city propose to have stamped all *checks, drafts or orders* drawn upon them, and will thereby unswering to the same purpose, as the law clearly intends.

"The prompt to enforce any other interpretation of section 15 of the act of February 8, 1875, will be, very properly resisted, and in which event, the courts will be able to determine for the information of all concerned, the precise status of the law in question."

—A Jefferson city, Mo., dispatch of the 9th inst. says that Judge Krekel, of the United States District Court, gave on that day an important charge to the jury in the case of the United States vs. Thomas D. Price, a banker of Linn county, who was charged with paying unstamped drafts or orders. The Judge said that the defendant could not legally pay or cause to be paid any draft or order without the stamp affixed. Any payment of an instrument unstamped violates the law, and the use by means from such payment an intention to evade. The law does not allow the stamp to be affixed after payment except on conditions specially defined. The cases in point have been the first of the kind ever brought before a jury, and resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

—The money market during the day has undergone no change, and borrowers in good standing have their wants supplied without having to wait their turn at bank. In general trade circles the outlook is brighter. The breaking up of the rivers will soon let coal now afloat, out, and large supplies of heavy freights destined for the Southern markets that always awaits the spring rise before being shipped. From the coke region we also have encouraging reports. The strike of the miners in the anthracite district has made it necessary for the iron works, dependent upon anthracite fuel, to come into our market as buyers of coke, so that as a result, within the past two weeks, the ovens have been started and now the whole line of the Connelisville Railroad is literally ablaze with renewed activity and increased business.

—From the report of the Bureau of Statistics for February we gain the following information of the value of gold and silver coin and bullion exported from New York for the four weeks ended February 13, 1875:

	Aggregate.
American gold coin	$5,570,740 00
Foreign gold coin	199,004 00
Gold bars	126,588 53
Gold in silver bars	125,946 41
Silver in silver bars	1,040,885 00
Silver bars	595,646 49
American silver coin	15,940 00
Foreign silver coin	122,206 00
Total	$7,816,797 56

The following shows the ports to which shipments were made:

London	$ 802,657 81
Liverpool	3,175,386 01
Paris	2,880,854 53
Hamburg	106,353 45
West Indies	801,545 00
South America	45,000 00
Total	$7,816,797 50

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

March 17, 1875.	10:30	11:30	12:29	1:30	2:30	3:30
Gold	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	120	120	120		120	
7-30's, 1st	107	107	107		107	
7-30's, 1864	107	107	107		107	
5-20's, 1865	117	117	118		118	
5-20's, 1865, new	118	118	118		118	
5-20's, 1867	119	119	119		119	
5-20's, 1867, registered	119½	119½	119½		119½	
5-20's, 1868	119½	119½	119½		119½	
10-40's, coupon	114½	114½	114½		114½	
10-40's, registered	114½	114½	114½		114½	
Currency 6's	125	125	125		125	
New 5 per cents	112½	112½	112½		112½	
Western Union	78	78	78		78	78
Lacific Mailroad	28	28	28		28	28
Panama						118
Adams Express						49½
Wells, Fargo Exp'ss	85		85		85	
American Express	61		61		61	
United States Exp'ss						67
New York Central	109		109			109½
Erie	25	27	26	25	26	26
Michigan Central						90
Michigan Southern	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾		78¾
Illinois Central						101½
Cleve., and Pitts						92
Chicago & Northw'n	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾		45¾
Do preferred						58
Rock Island						103½
St. Paul, common	23	23	23	23		23
Do preferred						45
Wabash, common	11½	11½	11½	11½		11½
Fort Wayne						98
Ohio and Mississippi	28	28	28	28		28
Union Pacific	48	48½	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾
Marietta & Cin.						9
Hannibal & St. Jos.	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾		24¾
Iron Mountain	23	23	23	23		23
C., C. & I. C.						29
Tennessee, old						64
Tennessee, new						64
South Carolinas, Ap.						29
South Carolinas, July						29
Missouri 6's	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾		99¾

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central	55¾	55¾
Pennsylvania Central scrip	10¾	
Reading, sales	37¾	
United Co's of N. Jersey	133½	
Oil Creek	11¾	11¾
Lehigh Valley, sales	63¾	
Allegheny Valley		
Central Transporta'n Co	44¾	45
Empire Transportation Co	55½	55½
Pitts., Cin. and St. L., n. sales	77	

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, March 17, 1875.

The cold weather to-day operated to a certain extent as a check upon wholesale and jobbing lines of trade, although in some respects, there was a very fair business done. The spring trade has been delayed by the backward weather, and received another check to-day, which may be a very serious hindrance. Merchants here have generally made up their minds to a very moderate movement of merchandise until a more prosperous tone is established in manufacturing circles, and will not be disappointed if they should experience a dull month in April. Elsewhere the spring season opens up more promisingly, New York and Chicago reports being especially favorable. Foreign trade reports are somewhat less roseate as the following from an exchange will show:

Reports by mail of the state of the spring trade in London up to February 27 show some slight indications of revival, but there is still a great want of confidence. Coffee dealers and manufacturers are disposed to extend largely their operations. We ought now to be experiencing some stimulation to business, as the trade in spring goods should be assuming considerable proportions. But this is by no means the case, for the orders given to business at present has been by Canadian houses, who have been making some purchases of woolen materials in the Huddersfield district. To some extent, however, that would be checked, the trade in spring goods, for, after a very mild and spring-like January, we have just passed over a period of trying months, the present week, especially, having been very cold, while from the Continent we receive with a somewhat heavy fall snow, having reminded us that winter has by no means departed from us. At the same time, however, it is not considered probable that when spring weather shall have fully restored itself there will be any great degree of activity in business, for there is still a great disposition to operate with extreme caution. The purchasing power of the country seems to have diminished; not that the country has become poorer, but that wealth has, of late, been accumulating in a few hands, so that the number of customers has become reduced.

The following were the exports of the four leading cities of the Atlantic seaboard for the dates named:

	Week ending March 13, 1875.	Week ending March 14, 1874.	Wk ending March 14, 1874.
Flour, bbls	66,237	54,212	65,871
Wht., bu	519,446	420,348	521,100
Corn, bu	374,480	658,210	180,080
Rye, bu	15,057		7,900
Pork, bbls	5,965	7,311	4,382
Lard, lbs	5,816,126	3,126,750	5,070,900
Bacon, lbs	4,600,027	5,854,385	7,041,825

*From five points.

Values in our wholesale and jobbing markets have undergone some changes of importance since our quotations in quotations of a marked character are reported. The strong feeling in wheat reported both from the West and the East has created a firmer tone here, but not much change in prices. Corn is getting a little weak, and is, perhaps, quotable about a cent below last week's figures. Oats are unchanged. Flour continues firm, and there is much less cutting of prices than for some time. Hay is in large supply, and prices are easier. Mill feed also shows a rather easier feeling under the influence of liberal receipts. In the country produce line, the downward tendency in butter, *eggs*, &c., which was so marked in the early part of the week, has since been made, but holders of those descriptions, as well as of green, have generally refused to accept the bids of buyers, and considerable business, which might have been transacted at a concession, was thus checked. There is not now, however, that wide difference in their respective views as regards prices that was noticeable a week or two ago, when they were from 5c to 10c apart; now holders' prices average only about 3c above those of buyers. A moderate line trade has been done at the late decline in prices.

TOBACCO—There is a steady and strong demand. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	60@63c
Black Navy	53@58c
Black Twist	55@60c
Black Quarters	57@60c
Louisville Navy	62@65c
Louisville Cav	60@63c
Virginia Navy	58@63c
Virginia Twist	58@65c
Virginia Cav	53@61c
Double Thick	62@68c
Plug Cutters	60@65c
Bright Pounds	62@ $1
Rough & Ready	65@85c
Fine Cut Plugs	70@90c
Fine Cut	55@90c
Cut and Dry	39@42c
Scotch Snuff	65@75c
Six Twist	63@45c
Cigars—	
Penn'a Seed	$13@20
Connecticut	25@30
Havana	60@ $1

FISH—There is a fair demand at steady prices. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess	$
mackerel, ₱ bbl	25 00
No. 1 mess	20 00
Extra No. 1 shore	20 00
Extra No. 1 bay	15 00
No. 1 bay	14 00
Extra No. 2	14 00
No. 2 bay	11 50
No. 3 bay	9 50

CANNED GOODS.—There is a moderate but steady jobbing trade. Tomatoes, 3-lb cans, per doz, $1 50@2 00; 2-lb cans, per doz, $1 60; corn, 2-lb cans, per doz, $2 60; Lima beans, 2-lb cans, $2 25; string beans, 2-lb cans, $1 75; cherries, 2-lb cans, $2 25@2 50; blackberries, 2-lb cans, $1 75@2 00; strawberries, 2-lb cans, $2 25; raspberries, 2-lb cans, $2 60; asparagus, 2-lb cans, $3 75; pineapples, 2-lb cans, $2 75; pears, 2-lb cans, $2 25; pint pickles, per doz, $1 35; quart pickles, per doz, $2 25; ¾ gallon pickles, per doz, $3 00.

CANNED OIL.—The market is easier. We quote at 60@65c from manufacturers' round lots; on the cars, are made at a reduction on these rates.

Provisions.

The market is considerably firmer and the supply poorer in important articles, especially Lard. Receipts here have been liberal the past week, being 15,199 pieces and 353 tierces. The shipments of both by rail and boat to consumers to date reply. Receipts are moderate, being 63,542 bushels for the week ending to-day, against 59,597 bushels the previous week. Transactions on 'Change have generally been rather slow. Prices are not materially changed, the notable features being a firmer feeling in wheat, and a weaker tone to the market for corn.

HAMS—The feeling in wheat is stronger under the influence of apprehensions that the spring would prove so late as to cause a short crop of winter wheat this year. The stock of wheat in farmers' hands is estimated at 52,000,000 bushels. It is reported that farmers in the North west are busy with spring work at high rates of interest rather than sell at present prices. All these influences, with the improving market for flour, cause prices to look upward, although there is not much quotable change since as yet. Receipts during the past week were 9,247 bushels, against 5,973 bushels the previous week. Shipments are quite limited. We quote choice Kentucky white wheat at $1 00@1 05 ₱ bushel; extra Michigan white at $1 02@1 07; Ohio and Indiana do $1 00@1 04; amber do $1 17@1 20; Ohio and Pennsylvania red do $1 04@1 12.

CORN—The feeling in corn is somewhat weaker, and some sales were made to-day at a decline of 1c from the prices we quoted last week. The feeling seems to be entirely local in its character, as the stock here cannot be replaced at present prices. The relative position of prices in corn is somewhat lower than for a long time, and it seems probable that the market has been unnecessarily depressed by speculation only. Receipts for the past week were 16,745 bushels, against 6,647 bushels the previous week. Transactions on 'Change were confined to 2 cars of yellow shelled at 70½c; 1 car mixed at 70c; 1 car white shelled at 71c; 1 car yellow ear at 75c; 1 car white ear at 73½c; 1 car yellow 73½c; 1 car mixed 73½c; 1 car white shelled at 72½c; 1 car yellow shelled at 73½c; 1 car white ear at 73½c; 1 car yellow ear at 73½c; 1 car white ear at 73½c; 1 car yellow ear at 73½c; 1 car white ear at 73½c; 1 car yellow ear

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

THAT Cleveland "greenback convention" was a weak back affair, as almost anybody who remembers the Judge DAVIS fiasco of 1872 could long back have told it would be.

IN THE Chicago iron market things look decidedly better. The *Tribune* of that city says: "The pig iron market shows signs of revival, and the hardware men are very much encouraged at the prospects before them."

WE OBSERVE, in various Democratic papers, expressions of a certain amount of gratification at the "check" which that party received in New Hampshire last Tuesday, "as tending to restrain the more imprudent members of the party." Restrain them from what?

HAD it not been for the fraudulent naturalization and illegal voting and other villainies resorted to by the New Hampshire Democrats, the triumph of the Republicans at the late election would have been complete. As it is, some of the parties to this scoundrelism are likely to find it an exceedingly costly piece of business.

THE New Hampshire election shows, among other things, how great a vote can be got out in a sharp contest. The population of the State being 320,000, the full vote, this year, will be more than 75,000, or almost one in every four of the inhabitants. At the same ratio in our own State, we should cast about 850,000 votes, an aggregate which in our hottest fights, we have never reached.

WHEN fog-horn BILL ALLEN has BEN WADE in the Ohio balance, next fall, he will be likely to find himself vastly wanting. There is a strong and growing probability that the gnarled old free-soil leader will accept the Republican nomination for Governor. We hope he may. The Cheesdom of the Western Reserve, alone, would give him a majority mighty enough to carry him through.

LESS than six millions of the thirty millions of bonds called by the Secretary of the Treasury on account of the sinking fund were registered bonds, instead of the entire amount, as was thought likely would be the case. This will take a good deal of gold out of the country, nevertheless, the withdrawal of such a large amount of six per cents, cannot fail to impart a healthy stimulus to the sale of the five per cents, and to strengthen the national credit.

THE people of New York city are becoming seriously alarmed about their debt, and it must be confessed that they have good grounds for anxiety. The obligations of that Democratic stronghold now foot up over a hundred and fourteen million dollars, with a lively prospect of a steady increase. The expenditures of the city last year amounted to thirty-four million dollars, an amount considerably exceeding the total cost of the entire United States Government thirty years ago. Such a fact as this indicates remarkable progress—in a certain direction.

THE Washington correspondent of an evening contemporary is in error in his statement that Senator FERRY, President *pro tem.* of the United States Senate, will technically become President of the United States Senate for twenty-four hours, in consequence of the 4th of March, 1877, falling on Sunday, thus throwing the inauguration of the next President over until Monday. The term of Senator FERRY expires on the same day as do the terms of President GRANT and Vice President WILSON. If neither of these officials can hold over for one day, how can he? There will be no "vacancy," however. The President will continue in his office until his successor is duly inaugurated.

UNDER the new law of Congress relating to the transmission of merchandise by the mails, the rate on third class matter, as it is termed, is doubled, and the Postmaster General decides that transient newspapers, as well as books, pamphlets, periodicals, etc., are embraced in its provisions, and will be charged one cent for each ounce or fraction thereof. If weighing at all over an ounce, no matter how narrow the margin, two cents will have to be paid instead of one. This burdensome imposition went into effect on Wednesday. In our local columns we print the section of the law classifying and including third class mail matter. It will be found of general interest.

A REPORT of the earnings of thirteen Western railways for February shows a total of $2,524,943, against $2,586,736 for the corresponding period last year, a decrease of $61,793. The gross earnings of the same roads from the 1st of January to the 1st of the present month were $4,348,635, against $4,356,845 in 1874, a decrease of $8,210. Aside from the well understood depression in railroad business, compared with the last year, the earnings of these roads were undoubtedly considerably affected by the severe snow blockades at the West, while in some cases the mileage has been decreased, by discontinuing branch lines, until a more active movement sets in. Hence the falling off in question.

THE Louisiana Grant parish cases will soon be brought up in the Supreme Court of the United States, upon a division of opinion certified from the United States Circuit Court of that State, Judge BRADLEY having virtually decided that the United States courts had no power to punish White Leaguers for violating the Enforcement acts. The decision of the Supreme Court will settle the important question whether the United States courts have any jurisdiction in the protection of the lives and property of United States citizens, or in the punishment of offenses against them, in States where the local power is overawed by organizations of desperate men.

THE confirmation of Dr. DE KOVEN as Bishop of Illinois, submitted to the standing committees of the several dioceses, has called out an expression from twenty-nine of the forty-five dioceses embraced within the United States. Of this number twenty have thus far negatived the confirmation, while but nine have declared in his favor. It is already taken for granted, even by DR. DE KOVEN'S most sanguine supporters, that his rejection is inevitable. There is some talk of carrying the matter into the courts, his partisans holding that the standing committees have no right to reject him except for irregularity of credentials, not being empowered to pass upon his theology.

THE most important feature of the new treaty with Belgium, in place of the existing one, which will terminate on the first of July next, is the new article in regard to trade-marks. This is of particular interest to our merchants and manufacturers. The article prohibits the counterfeiting of trade-marks in either country, establishes the right of action against counterfeiters in the country where the counterfeiting is done, and gives the courts jurisdiction. Americans are to lodge their trade-marks at Brussels in the office of the Tribunal of Commerce, and Belgians at Washington, at the Patentoffice. It is also provided that when trade-marks become public property in either country, they shall be equally free in both.

JEFF. DAVIS has written a letter denying having made a speech at Stevenson, Alabama, some time in February, 1861, in which he said: "I will carry the war where it is easy to advance, where food for the sword and torch awaits our armies in the densely populated cities," or at least declaring that he has no remembrance of making such a remark. He also denies having entertained a purpose "to excite sectional hostility, initiate war, and thus destroy the union of the States." Probably we shall next have him insisting that there were no such places as Belle Isle, Libby and Andersonville, or, at least, that the inconceivable barbarities practiced upon helpless Union prisoners in those hells by his authority and under his sanction, were the results of the tenderest feelings of sympathy and good will.

THE people of North Carolina are presently to be called upon to vote upon the question of a State convention, the only excuse for the assembling of which is to be found in the desire of the Democratic leaders of the South to return to the proscriptive constitutional forms which prevailed before the war. The upper crust of the white population there, as elsewhere in the South, are not in the least resigned to the situation. They have not the conviction that the present status of the negro, politically and socially, is an established thing. They evidently believe that as soon as they again have a Democratic President things will be righted exactly according to their notions, and they claim also that the Democrats of the North are with them in sentiment and sympathy. Neither, we suspect, are they very wide of the mark in this conclusion.

"LABOR REFORM" RUN MAD.

In another column we publish a carefully prepared synopsis of a bill now before the Legislature, having for its object, ostensibly, the adjustment of disputes between the coal, iron and steel operators of the State, and the workmen in their employ. The propositions embraced in the bill are too absurd for serious discussion, and, if adopted, would unsettle all the legal and equitable principles which have heretofore governed and protected miners and manufacturers in their right to manage their own affairs, and dispose of their products at such prices and in such quantities as they might deem fit. The bill, evidently the work of some chimerical "labor reformer," provides for the selection of an Industrial Tribunal, consisting of twelve persons, of whom nine are to be workmen in the several branches named, and only two, capitalists—one a coal operator, and the other an iron manufacturer! The Secretary of the Interior is to constitute the twelfth. The organization of the Tribunal—nine upon the labor side, with but two representatives of the manufacturers—is a fair indication of the manner in which disputes are likely to be "adjusted and settled," if the bill passes. Then, the manufacturers are to furnish monthly statements, under oath, of every detail of their business, so that this one-sided Tribunal can estimate how much wages they ought to pay, in case of dispute raised! They are not only to decide this difficult question, but are also to determine whether the operators have oppressed any of their workmen, and to award damages therefor; oppression being held to be, discharging a man without reasonable ground, as, for instance, for refusing to take goods in part payment for his labor. After the Tribunal has fixed the wages, the manufacturer must pay the same. He cannot shut up his mill, or his mine, without giving notice in operation, at the rates fixed, at least until the next meeting of the Tribunal! All payment in goods, or orders, or any commodity whatever, is positively prohibited, and the employers are not permitted to offset any claim for wages by showing that the claimant has received goods, or anything else than money.

But this is not all. Coal operators are required to report the amount of coal on hand, or stored by them, and are probibited from storing more than thirty days' supply, under penalty of having the excess seized and sold where found, to the highest bidder. Should the Tribunal adjudge any miner or manufacturer guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of the bill, the Governor must forthwith order his establishment into the hands of a receiver until the law shall have been fully complied with—or rather, the behests of the Tribunal obeyed. Such are the main features of this most extraordinary measure; and it is no wonder that the press of the State condemns it in the most unqualified terms. We have no idea that it can be passed, certainly not in anything like its present shape. Should it become a law, it would virtually place the taree great industries named at the mercy of those disaffected workmen who are always ready for a strike, and who are never at a loss to make out a case of tyranny or oppression against their employees. Such a law, instead of facilitating the adjustment of disputes between capital and labor, would entail confusion worse confounded, and deal a fatal blow at the manufacturing industries of the entire State.

TAKING the figures of the last annual reports of eight of the principal railroads of the country, including the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific, as to gross earnings and operating expenses for the last fiscal year, as compared with the preceding year, the New York *Bulletin* shows that, instead of a decrease in gross earnings, the combined list exhibits an increase of about one per cent., while the operating expenses show a reduction of five per cent. The net earnings of the eight roads for the fiscal year 1873, were $36,966,046, and for 1874 they were $41,410,509, an increase of $4,444,463, or about twelve per cent. This is a more favorable showing than was anticipated. It indicates, among other things, that the iron trade and the mechanical trades which supply engines, rolling stock and other supplies, have suffered a much greater degree of depression than has the general trade of the country; a circumstance which has told immensely in favor of the roads in their purchases of rails and supplies, and in outlays for repairs. Most of the roads have availed themselves of this temporary period of cheapness for making outlays which might otherwise have been delayed; and thus the condition of the roads has been improved at a time when it might have been expected that it would be allowed to deteriorate. The exhibit of gross earnings also affords a satisfactory symptom as to the condition of the general trade of the country. The *Bulletin* says: "Considering that the rates of transportation have been exceptionally low, the fact of an increase of receipts shows that, after all the complaints of the depression of trade, there has been no general reduction in the traffic and travel of the country, and that, whatever may have been the condition of some branches of business, upon the whole the wheels of industry have been kept well in motion."

The merchants of Boston appear to be making considerable progress towards a realization of better transportation facilities and lower rates between that city and the West. They seem to have given up all hope of getting cheap freights from the Boston and Albany Railroad corporation, which is at present the only through and direct line connecting Boston with any Western road. The report of the committee appointed by the merchants to examine into the Poughkeepsie route has been very favorably received, and it is the only route now presenting itself by which the Hub can obtain railway connection with the great producing regions of our own and other States beyond the Hudson river. Boston capitalists have expended millions in the development of sections beyond the Mississippi, but when the business which they have helped to create sought a market at their doors they were unable to accommodate it for want of railroad facilities. The members of the committee on the Poughkeepsie route unanimously recommended the construction of a bridge across the Hudson at that city, and with the connections on both sides, existing or contemplated, eleven different lines and branches being embraced in the convergement at the western points, Boston will have a highway to the West and Southwest. The present seems to be its opportunity in this respect. Regarding the Hoosac Tunnel route, the Legislature has just decided upon the "toll-gate" plan in opposition to consolidation of the various roads centering at the great bore. This means the use of the tunnel upon equal terms by all connecting roads. All the great railroad schemes of visionary parties have been killed, especially that of borrowing $28,000,000 from the State to build a line of independent roads between Boston and Lake Ontario.

A WEEK or two ago we noticed the decision of the United States District Court in Chicago, in a case in which certain town officers of an interior county of Illinois resigned in order to escape paying a judgment on railroad aid bonds to the effect that, no successors having been appointed, they were still in office, and issuing peremptory mandamus, requiring them to audit the claims and levy a tax for their payment. These repudiating bond holders have now had another dose of justice dealt out to them by the same court, a number of suits brought by non-resident holders to compel the payment of interest on bonds issued in aid of railroads, having this week been decided, judgment in each case being for the plaintiff. In one case the suit was contested upon the ground that the law chartering the company to which aid was voted was never passed regularly by the Legislature, and that therefore the company had no legal existence; another that notices of the time for holding the election were not properly posted, and still another because the aid was voted to one company, and before the bonds were issued the company was consolidated with another, by which it was changed in name and purpose from what it was when the aid was voted. None of these defenses availed, however. The bonds having passed into the hands of innocent purchasers, the court held them to be valid as against technicality, and that the interest must be paid—a sound and righteous decision.

THE Democratic Governor of Georgia says the whites of the Southern States "may hold inviolate every law of the United States, and still so legislate upon the labor system as to retain the old plantation system, or in lieu of that establish a baronial one." A bill now pending in the Alabama Legislature, so to amend the landlord's lien as to give him a lien upon all the personal property of the tenant, as well as the crop grown upon the land, will afford a pretty fair illustration of what is meant by this "baronial system." For instance, a poor laboring man, white or colored, with a dependent family, rents a piece of land from a wealthy neighbor to make a crop for the support of his wife and children. He agrees to pay a fixed price per acre, or to give so much produce. The contract is entered into; he moves upon the land with his household goods, and works hard all the year; but perhaps the seasons are unpropitious, or his health fails him, one or both, and he does not realize his expectations, his crop is a failure, he does not make enough to pay the rent, and the landlord comes in and takes not only all the produce on the place, but absolutely seizes the household furniture, the beds, clothes, cooking utensils, everything that the tenant has, to pay him for the rent of his land, and turns him out of doors with nothing to support the wants of a helpless family. On the other hand, no provision is made to give the laborer a lien for his labor, and he may work all the year round for the landlord, and if the crops fails, the independent landlord says he is not able to pay; that he has not made more than enough for himself, and the poor laborer is compelled to leave without any remuneration for his year's toil, and without even the necessaries of life. What do the people of the North think of the justice and humanity of such a "baronial system" as this?

IT IS evident that BISMARCK does not relish the language of the Pope in the latter's encyclical. He wants Italy to say whether she will continue to exempt him from the operations of law, and allow him from his retreat in the Vatican to foment rebellion in Germany, by such counsels as are contained in the document in question. It is difficult to foretell the result of the contest between the Empire and Vatican. The assumption on the part of the Church to exercise a certain control over secular matters received a new impetus by, and is a natural consequence of, the lately established doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope. All encroachments of this kind are sternly resisted by BISMARCK; and that, in such resistance, he has the sympathy of many Catholics, is abundantly proved by the proceedings of the late German Parliament. Whether, judging from a political standpoint, the policy adopted by BISMARCK is a wise one, or whether the manner of resistance is politic, and whether it would not be best to let the churches, as they do in this country, "paddle their own canoes," are problems yet to be solved. It is a radical mistake, however, to suppose that BISMARCK is engaged in an aggressive warfare against the Catholic hierarchy. That Church enjoys in every portion of Germany equal rights and privileges with the Protestant denominations, and is, like the latter, under the protection of the Government. BISMARCK only disputes the right of the Vatican to intertere, though indirectly, in the government of the State.

APROPOS of the jubilant report of the directors of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, just issued, stating that the net earnings for the last calendar year were $5,900,000, out of the gross earnings of $10,550,000, equal to seven per cent. on the entire capital and bonds of the company, it is an exceedingly difficult matter to understand why, the road being in such a highly prosperous condition, it cannot begin at once to pay off the Government bonds issued in its behalf. The country has paid, up to the first of the present month, nearly $9,000,000 in interest on the bonds issued in behalf of the road, under the impression that the line was not making enough to pay it for itself. It is quite evident that the recent piteous plea of poverty filed by the managers at Washington, in order to induce the Government to accept the so-called "compromise," by which the road was to pay each year from one-third to one-half of the interest due that year, and was then to be released from all liability for the principal, was simply a piece of lying hypocrisy and chicanery. The Springfield *Republican* does but express the general mind when it says: "If Secretary BRISTOW is of the stuff he is supposed to be, he will know the reason why it cannot and does not pay its debts to the Government, before any dividends are paid out to stockholders." The report clearly shows that the company can easily pay its debts, if it chooses, and it should be made to do so to the uttermost farthing.

THE following interesting anecdote of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and how he obtained means to stump Illinois against STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS, is quite new, and its entire authenticity is vouched for by one of the parties concerned. In the year 1857, MCCORMICK & CO., of Chicago, sued TALCOTT & EMERSON, of Rockford, Illinois, for an infringement on their patent harvesters. The trial was long and tedious, costing the defendants not less than $50,000 to defend the suit. The case was tried in Cincinnati. After several adjournments and before the last struggle, the attorney for the defense wrote his clients a letter, saying he felt fully competent to try the case, but that there were two lawyers he did not want against him; one of them being A. LINCOLN, of Springfield, Illinois, and he desired them to write and retain him. For one week's services the defendants paid LINCOLN $1,500. After he was elected President, he wrote Mr. TALCOTT a letter and appointed him United States Assessor of the Rockford district, reminding him of the law suit, and stating that the $1,500 he received as his fee was used to stump the State of Illinois against STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS, and that that was what elected him to the Presidency of the United States. "Had it not been for the money you paid me," he said, "I would not have been able to have stumped the State. You will please accept the appointment as a slight remuneration for aid at that time."

WE referred, a few days since, to a contemplated change in the policy of the Government in dealing with the captured hostile Indian tribes. The change, it appears, has been determined on, and we learn from the Leavenworth *Commercial* that orders have been issued to march the prisoners, including men, women and children, to the military reservation at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where, it is claimed, they can be clothed and subsisted for ten per cent. of the money that it costs to support them at the remote agencies of the frontier. The plan of treatment, is to provide schools for the children, furnish to the men and women some kind of suitable employment and, if possible, present to them at least a portion of the mitigations and attractions of civilized life. It is not expected that they will be crowded together in close quarters like so many cattle, and simply fed and clothed at Government expense, with no intention to keep them under the supervision of the army, and amenable to the discipline that will best promote health and resignation. The plan is worth trying, at least. While it would be inhuman to kill them by the slow process of prison confinement, it would be just as contrary to the interests and dictates of humanity to turn them loose again. The policy should have a fair trial.

WE ARE sorry to learn that the American Palestine Exploration Society is brought nearly to a standstill in its operations from lack of funds. The peninsula of Sinai has already been thoroughly surveyed, and only the triangulation of Palestine remains to be finished, in order to complete the geography of the Holy Land. Three hundred square miles have been triangulated, and it is estimated that the remaining work can be accomplished in a little over two years, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars a year. To supply this money should be a matter of national pride. The United States has already furnished the greatest explorer and writer on Palestine, EDWARD ROBINSON, who inspected the country most thoroughly, and who is just beginning to receive his due at the hands of savans and Bible students. Very excellent and quite as thorough was the work of our Lieutenant LYNCH in his exploration of the Dead Sea, and in 1836 Dr. THOMPSON, of Beirout, made further researches and surveys. We, therefore, opened the crusade in the exploration of Palestine, and hence we certainly ought to prosecute it to a successful completion.

SOME of the Democratic papers are complaining because Secretary FISH, in settling our difficulty with Spain on account of the Virginius affair, made no monetary charge "for the indignity offered the American flag." So much the more credit for his sense of national honor. We obtained from Spain a formal apology and salute. The latter Government ordered our flag raised over the very spot where the Virginius butchery took place, and there, in the presence of our ships of war, and various foreign consuls, assembled as witnesses, the Spanish forts fired a salute to our flag, and a Spanish representative delivered to our commissioners a formal written apology. We trust this country has not yet degenerated so low as to measure its honor by a monetary standard—though there is no telling how soon it might reach such a depth were it for any considerable length of time delivered over to the ascendancy of Democratic doctrines and practices.

THE strike at Fall River, Massachusetts, continues with no apparent prospect of settlement, but the latest phase of the labor difficulty has been developed at some of the woolen mills which have attempted to make arrangements with the male operatives to work eleven hours a day. The men, thus far, have refused, and voted to stay out, whereupon the owners closed their mills. The new Ten Hour law of that State went into effect a few weeks ago, and it is this law that appears to be working injury to the woolen manufacturers, as they cannot compete with other States who run their mills longer hours. Some of these mills have, it is said, been run at a dead loss merely to keep the help in daily bread. There, as here and elsewhere, many of the workers do not seem to understand the difficulties under which employers have to labor, but stigmatize every self-preservative movement adopted by the latter as the tyranny of capital.

GEORGIA is the brag Democratic State of the Union. Here is what the Columbus *Enquirer*, of that State, an ultra Bourbon sheet, has to say concerning the outcome of the late session of the Legislature:

Nearly every county is claiming that it had admirable representatives in the Legislature of Georgia at its late session, but that they could do nothing against the incompetent or improvident ones from other counties, and thus the session was profitless and expensive. The fact that the session was a profitless one is not denied, and the only trouble is upon whom to shift the responsibility.

The experience of Georgia in this respect is of a similar character to that of every other Democratic State in the Union. Across the brows of every such Legislature is written "Fraud."

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Welcub, welcub, birthful Spring,
Happy birds are dow od wig.
Flittidg gleed trees grow to tree
Fillidg the air with belody.

The shoe business is looking up. Shoe leather, chemically considered, is oxhide of beef.

Twenty-four newspapers came into existence, last week, and sixteen ceased to live.

There is a balmy hint of May-day wandering about among the moist March hours.

A separate prison for women, with a reformatory for girls, has been established at Indianapolis.

Several crevasses have already opened in the Mississippi levees, and a disastrous flood seems imminent.

Disease resembling the epizootic, but more virulent in form, is prevailing in a number of the Western States.

The Dominion Parliament proposes to organize the Northwest Territory outside of Manitoba into a government.

"Less study and more fun" is Robert Collyer's correct and comprehensive view on the education of young children.

A Boston journalist is writing a comic opera, to be called "Sir Marmaduke." There is no scandal in it, however.

Brigham Young says he is impressed with the idea that contempt of court and divorce suits are not prophetable business.

The spring is upon us, and the ladies are doing a slushing business on the sidewalks and a slashing one in the dry goods stores.

The once celebrated Poorman mine, near Silver City, Idaho, which has been lying idle for several years, is about to be again worked.

Whenever the *Post* is perplexed in argument, it gets out in the same manner in which insolvent debtors get out of jail—swears out.

The "Sacred College of Cardinals" now contains, three English speaking members, a thing unprecedented since the time of Henry VIII.

Spring signs. Wild water fowl, who are supposed to know a thing or two about the weather, are winging their way to the boreal regions.

Now let the Western farmers go to work with a will, as if they had never seen a grasshopper or a chinch bug. It is time to stop complaining.

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INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The furnaces at Robesonia, Berks county, Pa., are again in blast.

The rolling mill at West Middlesex, Mercer county, Pa., is idle.

The lumbermen of Carbon county, Pa., are preparing for a brisk trade the coming spring.

It is rumored that the Reading and Lehigh Railroad has been leased by the Philadelphia and Reading.

The wool hat factories of Reading will suspend operations on April 17, in order to get rid of the large stock of goods on hand.

The strike among the coal miners along the Pan Handle Railroad in Ohio is at an end, and the old miners have agreed to go to work at three cents per bushel.

Work has been resumed at the Pitt & Merritt mines in Morris county, N. J. The prospect now is that the mines will be driven to their fullest extent for a year to come.

The Paterson, N. J., workingmen are becoming discouraged with the business prospects in that city, and a large number have left or are preparing to leave for California,

The Bedford, Pa., *Inquirer* says, "The Hopewell furnace has on hand 1,150 tons of charcoal pig iron. They are making arrangements to resume operations at an early day.

Tuscarawas is the third iron producing county in Ohio. She is out-ranked only by Lawrence and Jackson counties. The iron fields of Tuscarawas extend well down into Guernsey.

A new boiler shop has been erected at Sharon, Pa., where the old one was burned three weeks ago. The shop is quite an improvement, being larger and more convenient than the old one.

The first shipment of iron from the furnace of Peter Uhler, South Easton, Pa., which was recently blown in, was made on Wednesday, when 100 tons were shipped to the Delaware rolling mill.

The Central Shaft coal mines, near Cambridge, Ohio, are in the hands of the Sheriff. The engine, cars and machinery have been attached by different parties, to secure debts, and will be sold.

Business at a majority of the Lowell, Mass., mills is reported to be excellent, many of them being scarcely a bale ahead of their orders, though their storehouses were filled to overflowing six weeks ago.

The Bangor Slate Company, which has been furnishing employment to only about half of its usual number of workmen, is about to start up anew and will employ a full force again in a short time.—*Reading Argus.*

A general strike of the journeymen in the boot and shoe trade in the East, it is said, will be ordered, in consequence of the intention of the manufacturers to lower their salaries. The manufacturers say they can get all the non-society men they want.

The hollow-ware foundry of Shantz & Keeley, in Spring City, Chester county, Pa., has resumed operations, men having been procured in Baltimore to take the place of the strikers. Policemen are employed to prevent the strikers interfering with the new hands.

A mass meeting of the painters of New York city was held on Friday evening, to protest against the proposed reduction of wages and a return to the ten hour rule. Several speeches were made, and a series of resolutions adopted deprecating the proposed changes.

The Clearfield, Pa., *Raftsman's Journal* says: The amount of square timber, to be run to market from this region, will not much exceed one-half the usual supply, judging from the information we have on the subject. A limited supply will undoubtedly insure better prices than could be obtained were the quantity greater.

The Clarion *Democrat* of the 12th inst. says: The Pittsburgh Mining and Coal Company of Catfish has secured a renewal of their contract to furnish coal for the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada for a year. There is some trouble in procuring cars yet, but the works are now running between four and five days each week, and expect to make full time shortly.

The entire property (real estate and personal), machinery and fixtures of the Phillipsburg Manufacturing Company, Warren county, Pa., was sold July 1st at public sale. Daniel Runkle, Esq., was the purchaser at $20,000. It is understood that arrangements will be made for carrying on business at this establishment on a more extensive scale than ever before.

The heaviest casting ever made in Norristown is now being constructed at the Norris Iron Works It is to be used for a pair of heavy shears for shearing iron, and weighs fourteen tons. It is being made for a mill below Manayunk. A mammoth cylinder, ninety six inches in diameter, with a seven-foot stroke, is also being made at the same works. This is to be used for a large blowing engine for the Silver City, Idaho, which has been lying idle for several years, is about to be again worked.

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In order to protect themselves from smugglers, New York merchants are now compelled to employ, at their own expense, private detectives to discover parties engaged in smuggling goods.

A QUEER BATTLE.

A Pennsylvania Farmer Whipped by Rats.

The Carlisle *Herald* says: Mr. Jesse Laverty, of East Pennsboro', living near Booser's Mill, was lately very much annoyed by rats, which carried off his eggs and made sad work with his corn in the crib and then invaded his granary and commenced destroying a bin of wheat. Mr. L., on examination, found there was but one place where the rats got in. He thereupon resolved to kill the rats by an artifice well worthy of the cause. He strewed corn meal liberally on the floor of the granary, and about one hour later he nailed the hole shut, he then called his dog (a Spanish terrier) and armed with a club went forth to battle.

Now the door to the granary is fastened by a long wooden latch extending full across the door, and can only be opened from the outside, and Mr. L., on entering the granary, drew the door shut and heard the latch fall. He then thought that the enemy was his, but this was an error, for the rats were more numerous than he expected, and finding no way of escape, attacked both Mr. L. and his dog with great fury. Mr. L. laid on his blows hard and fast, and one blow, aimed at a rat, unfortunately hit the dog on the head and killed him.

Mr. L. being thus deprived of his faithful ally, would have fled but could not. He then commenced calling for help, the rats meanwhile kept skirmishing around his legs, ran up his body, bit his hands, and one bolder than the rest bit his nose. It is impossible to say what the result of this unequal contest would have been, had not a passing neighbor, attracted by the noise and cries, went to the relief of Mr. L., who presented a shocking spectacle, his face and hands bloody, and his clothes torn into shreds.

Mr. L. being washed and rehabilitated, sat down to reflect, when he luckily hit on a better plan of warfare. He went and borrowed twelve cats, which with his own made fifteen; these he in the evening shut up in his granary with the rats, and the next morning he found, on examination, ten dead cats, one blind one, and two with one eye apiece. The remaining two were unhurt, and by actual count he found one hundred and nineteen dead rats; of the dead dog there was nothing left but the bones and hair, the rats doubtless having eaten him while Mr. L. was hunting cats.

Ortwein in Heaven.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Some good people are troubled because they think I have presumed to exclude murderers, or at least one murderer, from God's pardoning mercy. They base their opinion on my assertion that I do not want companionship, in heaven, with the last man who went there from an Allegheny county jail.

Heaven is a place about which we have little information. Christ speaks of it as a Kingdom—a house with many mansions. John describes the capital city of that kingdom; and Milton, whom most orthodox Protestants unconsciously regard as canonical, describes it as a much larger country than China, with a very much higher wall and very diversified scenery. With these hints everyone is left to imagine, or construct, his own heaven, and perhaps no two persons have the same idea. To me the physical world is a type of the spiritual, and I cannot imagine a world, or kingdom, or city in which every inhabitant is in familiar, personal intercourse with every other one. I cannot conceive of a heaven like an Illinois prairie, and all the people in it like a bushel of white beans, without distinctive marks. I do not believe in any dead level system of society, such as is proposed by communes and trades unions. I have an instinctive aversion to social rolling pins; never would get under one, here; never had any desire to have larger folks crushed down to my level, and will not submit to being rolled into the size of smaller folks.

For aught I know, Ortwein's soul may outrank mine in the upper kingdom; his place may be nearer the throne; he may live in the west end of Jerusalem, and I on a back street, away east of him, and still I not want to know him, even though one of the many appointments I have made for that country, is to meet a murderer who died on the gallows, with a mere glimmer of a hope, that God, for Christ's sake, had pardoned him.

The soul will not lay aside its specialties with its fleshly garments. Grace, in this world, does not annul individual character, and glory is only a consummation of the work of grace. If, here, God supplies the special needs of that infinite variety of beings he has created, what reason have we to suppose that, there, he will give the same portion to all? The good that each has failed to find here, will be secured there, and what I most expect is the height of private judgment, salvation to worship God. This was the dream of the Reformation, that hitherto unattainable good for which martyrs have died, and will continue to die until Death is swallowed up in victory.

In heaven I expect to be delivered from the agonizing solicitude of those conservatives who think they have a divine warrant to keep me in the old grooves, and the thousand and one radicals who, each, have missions for pointing out a particular road on which I must travel, or fail to reach the goal. I think that in heaven each one will be free to choose his own work and companions, and there are not likely to be many whose happiness would be increased or diminished by my companionship. I expect a very quiet corner and Mr. Ortwein's friends may overestimate his humility in supposing he would be willing to join my little circle. There will be room for us all, and no friction, even though there will be millions who will not care to see me and whom I shall not care to see; but, the doctrine at the root of this trouble—Faith and Works—is one demanding constant and careful attention.

Luther's mission was to turn people away from all trust in works and to substitute Faith, alone, as the ground of salvation, and he was only one of a continuous line of controversialists on this subject. The original disputants in the Christian dispensation, seem to have been Paul and James, and when such men disagree, it is not likely that the world will soon come to a perfect understanding.

Faith is a something about which no outside party can judge by any but the James test—works. One may prove to another his faith by his works, but in no other way, and the ablest writers on the subject hold it as one on which a man is most likely to deceive himself. The soul can only judge itself by its fruits, and how shall another judge without them? "By their fruits ye shall know them!" By what fruits? Words? These are a small part of the fruit borne by a contrite spirit, striving to grow into the likeness of God, and we have no more warrant for judging that a man repents because he says so, than for assuming that his testimony, in his own behalf, is admissible on all other subjects. He may be very sincere and think he is sorry for sin, when it is only the discovery which troubles him, and when he is known to have persisted in a falshood long after his professions of repentance, those professions may well be taken at a discount.

When a man says he has faith and cheats his neighbor in a bargain; when he is careful about his creed